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1 1 MAY 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Security (PTOS)

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FROM

Chief, Safety Branch

SUBJECT

Employee Bulletin

The attached employee bulletin is in support of the sale of Residential Smoke Detectors in the Employee Activity Association (EAA) Store. This is a program that Safety Branch has been encouraging EAA to undertake and the bulletin would be a big boost. The bulletin should be published on or about 10 June 1976.

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Employee Bulletin

Fire Detection For The Home

Nearly 700,00 fires occur in American homes annually and produce losses exceeding \$874 million. Presently, there are about 68 million occupied dwelling units in the United States, and new units are being added at the rate of 2 million a year. Considering this growth, it can be projected that annual property losses from residence fires will approach \$1 billion by 1980.

Of the 8,000 Americans who die in building fires every year, nine out of ten die at home. Firefighters find their bodies beyond the wall of fire or smoke that blocks escape, sometimes only a few feet from a window or door, and often they are found where they slept. Smoke and toxic gases or lack of oxygen -- not fire itself -- killed them. In countless instances, those lives would be saved if the victims were awakened and alerted to the presence of a fire in its early stages.

The National Fire Protection Association, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, among others, support the use of early warning detectors in homes. There is a consensus that only devices approved by nationally recognized testing laboratories such as Underwriters' Laboratories or Factory Mutual Research Corporation should be used.

The Safety Branch, Office of Security also recommends the installation of approved early-warning smoke detectors in Agency employees homes. In support of this, the Employees Activity Association, as a service to all employees, will sell at manufacturers cost Early Warning Ionization Smoke Detectors commencing 15 June 1976 for a limited time.

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